

BUDDY POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- ensure Prep students experience a smooth transition and a positive start to formal education
- provide Year 5 students with the opportunity to develop their mentoring skills in line with their future leadership roles
- encourage cross age links between the junior and senior school
- broaden the social network of students
- provide the students with opportunities to develop a whole school connectedness with others within the school.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Pre-school students and Year 4 students (in the year leading up to student's commencing school)
- Prep and Year 5 students
- Year 1 and Year 6 students.

POLICY

A designated Pre-school/Year 4 Buddy coordinator is appointed, from a member of staff in the Year 4 area, at the beginning of each year. This teacher coordinates Kinder visits with the Pre-school.

During the second half of the year, buddy sessions take place with the year 4 students and Kinder students, with visits to Tecoma Pre-school and Kinder students also visiting Tecoma PS.

Prep teachers liaise with local pre-school teacher regarding special needs and personalities of the students prior to the allocation of buddies.

In November, the Prep teachers, in consultation with the Pre-school/Year 4 teachers will begin the Buddy allocation process.

Pre-school children are matched with current grade 4 students.

Requests from parents or students to pair buddies will not be considered. Every effort will be made to increase each child's support network, by not pairing a Prep child with a buddy they have a pre-existing relationship with.

Students in both Year 4 & Year 5 are mentored by their teachers to develop leadership skills and demonstrate the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) values expectations in their roles as buddies throughout these two years.

Where there are uneven numbers, some students may be allocated an additional buddy.

Buddies are introduced to each other at the annual "Teddy Bears Picnic", on Orientation Day, in early December.

The buddy program officially commences at the beginning of Term 1 when the students begin their Prep Year. Prep and Year 5 teachers work together to coordinate this buddy program.

During the year, as part of the school's 'Leadership Program', formal situations are provided for students to interact. During first term, Prep's and their buddies are also encouraged to meet outside of class time.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

- Available for parents in the school's website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

<i>This policy has a review cycle of 3-4 years</i>	<i>This policy was approved by School Council on 14th May, 2024 and is scheduled for review in March, 2027.</i>
<i>Reviewed and approved by all members of School Council</i>	<i>Di Double, Stuart McLean, Lisa Hoskins-Faul, Travis Cochrane, Lisa Dell, Chelsey Robins, Kelly Sullivan, Phil Darbyshire</i>
<i>Approved by</i>	Principal – Rohan Thompson School Council President – Lisa Dell